

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-19 and 21, as amended, remain herein.

The applicants' note and thank the Examiner for allowing claim 21.

Applicants believe that this amendment places this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely places it in better condition for any appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and allowance of all claims 1-8 and 10-19 are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Halstead, Jr. et al. U.S. Patent 5,963,893 and Kempe U.S. Patent 6,816,830.

Halstead discloses a system for identifying words in Japanese text. Halstead's system uses a morphological analysis method. Halstead's method requires previous preparation of a dictionary, which comprises words and morphological information. Applicants claimed invention, in contrast, uses a non-morphological analysis method that does not rely upon any previously prepared dictionary. Thus, Halstead does not disclose calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

Kempe does not supply what is missing in Halstead. Kempe, which discloses a finite data structure with paths representing pair strings of tags and tag combinations, also uses a morphological analysis method. Kempe employs a lexical resource 98 in Figure 3 coupled with processor 62. It is processor 62, coupled with lexical resource 98, that performs the setting of tags and word classes in step 102 shown in Figures 6, 8 and 12. Thus Kempe does not disclose

calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Halstead or Kempe that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in Halstead or Kempe that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 7-8 and allowance of the same are therefore respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Halstead, Abe U.S. Patent 6,173,253, and Kempe.

Halstead's system uses a morphological analysis method. Thus, Halstead does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

Abe does not supply what is missing in Halstead. Abe discloses a morphological analysis process 161 in Figure 1, but does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

Kempe also does not supply what is missing in Halstead or Abe. Kempe discloses a morphological analysis method that employs a lexical resource 98, but does not disclose the non-

morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Abe, or Kempe that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Abe, or Kempe that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of all claims 3 and 10-17 are therefore respectfully requested.

3. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Halstead, Yamamoto et al. U.S. Patent 6,098,035, and Kempe.

Halstead's system uses a morphological analysis method. Thus, Halstead does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

Yamamoto does not supply what is missing in Halstead. Yamamoto discloses a morphological analysis method, but does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

09
Serial No.: ~~10~~745,795
Docket No.: 28951.4056

Kempe does not supply what is missing in Halstead or Yamamoto. Kempe discloses a morphological analysis method that employs a lexical resource 98, but does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Yamamoto, or Kempe that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Yamamoto, or Kempe that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 6 are therefore respectfully requested.

4. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Halstead, Abe, Kempe, and Yamamoto.

Claim 18, which depends upon claim 17, is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 17.

Yamamoto does not supply what is missing in Halstead, Abe, or Kempe. Yamamoto discloses a morphological analysis method, but does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Abe, Kempe, or Yamamoto that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Abe, Kempe, or Yamamoto that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 18 are therefore respectfully requested.

5. Claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Halstead, Abe, Kempe, and Hon et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,852,801.

Claim 19, which depends upon claim 17, is allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 17.

Hon does not supply what is missing in Halstead, Abe, and Kempe. Hon discloses a lexicon module 93 which contains all words that the computer program recognizes, but does not disclose the non-morphological analysis method that employs calculation of a character joint probability based on only the information involved in said given document database without referring to any dictionary as claimed by applicants.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Abe, Kempe, or Hon that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in any of Halstead, Abe, Kempe, or Hon that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to

09
Serial No.: ~~18~~745,795
Docket No.: 28951.4056

anticipate or suggest applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of claim 19 are therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.4056). Should the Examiner believe that further amendment could place the claims in the even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON



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